

In claim 8, line 10, delete "any of the claims 1 to 7" and insert—claim 1—

In claim 13, line 14, delete "any of the claims 11 and 12" and insert—claim 11—

In claim 14, line 18, delete "any of the claims 11 to 13" and insert—claim 11—

In claim 15, line 26, delete "any of the claims 11 to 14" and insert—claim 11—

In claim 18, line 28, delete "any of the claims 16 and 17" and insert—claim 16—

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 and 18.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

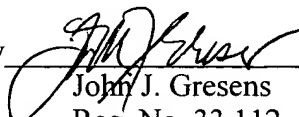
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

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By


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